

## MEDCAP helps village, soldiers hope for children



Story and photos by  
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**TURKMAN**, Afghanistan – A village that has known pain and despair saw hope in Cooperative Medical Assistance they received from coalition and U.S. Medics.

Filling this additional mission, Task Force-44 medics performed a CMA in Turkman Tuesday.

The CMA had six stations including adult male care, wound care, dentistry, optometry, female care and pediatrics. There was also a station set up to give the village safety tips, including boiling their water, basic hygiene and keeping children away from fires.

“We’ve seen a lot of burned children in the hospital so we’re trying to educate them so we can prevent more,” said Sgt. Rommel Tawatao, preventive medicine specialist, 791<sup>st</sup> Preventive Medicine Detachment.

*Col. Peter Zagursky, oral/maxillofacial surgeon/dentist, 48<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md., extracts a decaying tooth from an Afghan as his interpreter reassures the patient.*

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## Keeping Harriers flying high

By Sgt. W. Cullen James  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — Keeping a plane in the sky takes more than an alert pilot. It takes more than the mechanics turning wrenches. Someone has to coordinate when a plane can fly and when the mechanics do their job.

For the AV-8B Harriers of Marine Attack Squadron 513, the Maintenance Control section ensures all planes are mission ready.

The section bridges the gap between the pilots and tower personnel and the mechanics, said U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Aaron Haug, Harrier pilot, VMA 513. They are responsible for keeping track of the flight hours of each aircraft and coordinating which maintenance or inspections should be done on what plan when.

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Photo by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

### Fire it up now...

*Members of the Bagram Air Base fire department discuss how to treat their "casualty" Wednesday night at Motel 6 during a drill. They conduct at least three drills a month.*

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Iraqi Shiite pilgrims are sprayed with rosewater to cool them down Wednesday.*

## White House warns Iran to stay out of Iraq

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration has warned the Iranian government to stay out of Iraq and not interfere with the country on its “road to democracy,” the White House said Wednesday.

While not explicitly confirming reports that Iranian agents were making their way into Iraq, White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said, “We have concerns about this matter.”

Fleischer said the Iranian efforts would likely “not have much chance of success” due to cultural differences. But he warned Iran to stay out of Iraqi affairs nevertheless.

“We have made clear to Iran that we would oppose any outside organizations’ interference in Iraq and interfering with the road to democracy,” he said. “Infiltration of agents to destabilize the Shiite population clearly fall into that category.”

A Pentagon official Wednesday told CNN that intelligence reports received in the past few days indicate an unknown number of Iranian-backed agents have moved into southern Iraq to promote Shiite and Iranian interests with the Shia community there.

The reports indicated the Iranians were operating around Najaf, Karbala and Basra. Some of them may be members of the Badr Brigade, a Shiite militia group based in Iran, this official said.

Fleischer would not say at what level or through what means the administration’s message was communicated to Iran. The United States and Iran do not have diplomatic relations.

## Suicide bomber kills 1, wounds 12 in Israel

KFAR SABA, Israel — A suicide bomber early Thursday killed an Israeli security guard and injured 12 other people — two seriously — when he detonated at the entrance to a newly constructed train station in Kfar Saba, just outside Israel’s border with the West Bank, Israeli police and medical relief services told CNN.

The bomber approached the station on Kfar Saba’s outskirts, about 10 miles north-east of Tel Aviv. When stopped by the security guard at the station’s entrance about 7:20 a.m. (12:20 a.m. EDT), he blew himself up, eyewitnesses said.

The attack came hours after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accepted an Egyptian-brokered deal, allowing Abu Mazen to assume the post of Palestinian prime minister, a post he said he would not accept without clear powers.



*Capt. Michael Scott Speicher is now officially listed as “missing captured.”*

## Clue found to missing Gulf War pilot

WASHINGTON — After an initial search of several sites in Iraq, U.S. investigators have found a clue indicating a U.S. Navy pilot who was shot down in the Gulf War may have been alive years after the fact, Pentagon officials told CNN Wednesday.

A team of U.S. specialists looking for Capt. Michael Scott Speicher found what

appear to be the initials “M.S.S.” scratched into a wall of a cell in the Hakmiyah prison in Baghdad, an official tells CNN.

If the initials are Speicher’s, they would indicate he was alive in the mid 1990s, the official said, but investigators have still found nothing that indicates he is alive today.

The importance of the find, according to Pentagon officials, is that it appears to corroborate intelligence from an informer who told the United States Speicher had been held at the prison.

In other cases, U.S. search teams found evidence in Iraq that contradicted previous intelligence and indicated some informants were lying about what they knew about Speicher, officials said.

“We know that some of the sources ... gave us information that was intentionally not true,” the official said.

Speicher, who was promoted to captain while he was missing, was initially declared “killed in action” on the first night of the Gulf War in January 1991. Subsequent evidence showed that he ejected from his F-18 and fell into the hands of Iraqi military or paramilitary forces, Pentagon officials say.

He is now officially listed as “missing captured.”

## Peterson’s legal team in place

MODESTO, California — A team of three public defenders is in place to represent Scott Peterson, who faces charges he murdered his wife, Laci, and their unborn child.

Taking the lead in Peterson’s defense will be Tim Bazar, head of Stanislaus County’s public defender’s office — a post he’s held for more than seven years. He’ll be joined by Kent Faulkner and Maureen Keller.

Peterson, 30, was charged Monday with killing his wife and their unborn son in a premeditated act. Their son, whom they were to name Connor, was due to be delivered February 10. Peterson said he last saw Laci, 27, on Christmas Eve.

Judge Nancy Ashley appointed Bazar during Monday’s brief arraignment after Peterson said he wasn’t in a position to hire a lawyer.



# Murderer killed in coalition raid

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — Coalition forces in Afghanistan believe they killed the man who murdered a Salvadoran Red Cross worker March 27, officials at Combined Joint Task Force-180 said.

The action occurred Monday in Kandahar Province in the southern part of the country. Coalition forces worked with officials of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan to develop the intelligence and coordinate the attack.

During the raid, special operations forces killed the unidentified assassin after he fired on the forces. The team detained seven of his accomplices.

Ricardo Munguia, the worker, was an engineer specializing in water projects. He was shot on a road in southern Helmand province. Munguia was the first humanitarian worker killed since the Taliban fell.

A coalition assault team built around an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division unit took intelligence gleaned from the raid and conducted an air assault search-and-seizure mission north of Kandahar yesterday.

Between 150 and 200 personnel participated in the raid. Four Black Hawk helicopters lifted the group to the vicinity of Shurkay. The unit detained another seven personnel and seized a cache of ammunition that included mortar rounds, rocket-propelled grenades and boxes of various small-arms rounds.

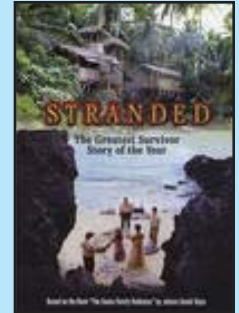
Other action included the firebase near Shkin coming under suspected rocket attack Tuesday. Two Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt IIs responded to coalition force request for close-air support. They did not drop any ordnance.

In further action, an Afghan military command post southeast of Khowst came under attack from anti-coalition forces. Again, commanders requested close-air support and enemy forces broke contact when A-10s arrived.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Stranded." David Robinson is being shipped off to a penal colony. His wife and kids are allowed to accompany him. A storm strikes the ship and the family are trapped below deck. The family gets out of the boat and onto land. They learn to survive and build a shelter on land.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Empire."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 82F L: 57F	Scattered t-storms H: 77F L: 54F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dusty H: 93F L: 61F	Dusty H: 90F L: 54F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storm H: 82F L: 56F	Scattered t-storms H: 75F L: 52F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 68F L: 54F	Sunny H: 75F L: 52F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Steven R. England

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Roger King

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Master Sgt. Pamela Smith

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw,

Pfc. Christina Carde, Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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## MEDCAP, from Page 1

Turkman was chosen due to its location according to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Stephen Casaceli, Base Operations non-commissioned officer in charge, 403<sup>rd</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion, Syracuse, N.Y. Turkman is approximately four kilometers from the base.

"We wanted to do a CMA close to base. It was planned for February, but it was cancelled due to fighting in the region," said Casaceli.

The people of the village had teeth extracted, wounds treated and their basic wellness checked.

"(The mission was) outstanding. We got started a little late, which kind of bothered me," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class John Hines, operations non-commissioned officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44<sup>th</sup> Medical Command.

The soldiers there were happy to be helping these people.

"To me, a human being who has pain or an infection that I can do something to help – that's why we're here," said Col. Peter Zagursky, oral/maxillofacial surgeon/dentist, 48<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Fort Meade, Md.



*Sangtaek Huh, a doctor from the Republic of Korea, treats an Afghan with eardrops.*

"It shows we are taking an interest in the area. We are doing what we can to help, when we can. Everyone around here seems to need medical care," said Casaceli. "It builds bonds."

For Hines, it's more for the children.

"I am especially happy to see the children. The older people have chronic illnesses, but you always want to take care of the (children)," he said

According to Hines this will also help the soldiers because the people will be more accepting of them.

"We are trying to build a rapport with the local community," he said.

Zagursky hopes this will help the future of the Afghan children.

"Hopefully, the children will see the good and the help we brought and feel good about that 20 years down the road."

## HARRIERS, from Page 1

"The Harrier engine has so many inspections that you have to do," Haug said. "It's important that you keep an accurate track of flight hours."

Keeping accurate records is the job of the Maintenance Administration Team. Pilots log flight hours and other vital information into a computer system called the Naval Aviation Logistics Command Maintenance Information System. The admin team then compiles the information into a single database so the control team has quick reference.

"The NALCMIS is the system that comes with the Harrier," Haug said. "But it's somewhat antiquated."

"We compile the information into a spreadsheet because it would take like 50 pages in the (NALCMIS) system," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Davis, Maintenance Admin chief.

"We have to make sure we have accurate record keeping or it just creates more work for us," Davis added.

One of the strengths of the Marine's operation is that they are operationally autonomous, said Haug. "We pretty much operate on our own. Other than the fuel trucks the Army feeds us, we're totally autonomous as far as the way we operate."

Assisting autonomy is the tool room. Keeping track of and issuing tools for all maintenance and inspections on the Harriers is their

mission. "We brought everything we need to support ourselves with us," said Marine Staff Sgt. Jerry Diblasi, tool room staff noncommissioned officer in charge. "We've only had to contact for parts about four times in six months, so I think we've done a pretty good job."

Prior to their deployment, the tool shop ensured there were enough tools and equipment to facilitate the "lone-wolf" operation of the unit.

"We ordered over 2,000 tools to make sure our operations would be autonomous," Diblasi said.

"Basically anything that deals with the aircraft starts and ends with us," said Marine Gunnery Sgt. Vince Rodenkirk, Maintenance Control chief. "We schedule all maintenance and inspections, schedule with the pilots and come up with a plan ... there are so many things we have to take into consideration. Basically, we have to make sure that the shops work on the aircraft in a priority that's going to benefit everyone."

Prior planning, good record keeping and coordination have allowed the Bagram-based Marine's five Harries to log over 2,200 flight hours in over 750 sorties (missions).

Although the Maintenance Control Section has played a large role in the 513's mission success, they are quick to share the credit.

"The guys turning the wrenches out there are the ones making it happen, we just coordinate the work," Rodenkirk said.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

## Fernandez stops 43 shots as Wild advance

**DENVER** — No one gave the Minnesota Wild much of a chance against the Colorado Avalanche, not even their coach.

The Wild proved everyone wrong.

Andrew Brunette scored 3:25 into overtime and Manny Fernandez stopped 43 shots as the Wild won their first playoff series with a 3-2 victory over Colorado on Tuesday night.

“Every player put heart and soul into it,” said Marian Gaborik, who scored Minnesota’s second goal. “The feeling is something that I don’t have words for right now. I don’t know. It’s just unbelievable.”

Several Wild players said before the series that they would be happy with just one victory against the two-time Stanley Cup champions.

Minnesota coach Jacques Lemaire even said after Game 4 that his team had no shot at winning the series.

Yeah, right.

The Wild won three straight games — the last two in overtime — to become just the eighth team in league history to come back from a 3-1 deficit with two victories on the road.

The Wild will face Vancouver in the next Western Conference series. The Canucks beat St. Louis 4-1 Tuesday night.

“We knew we weren’t going to give an inch. No way, not anywhere,” said Sergei Zholtok, who had two assists. “We have been battling and there were a lot of times we were on the line, but we found a way.”

The Avalanche wound up getting knocked out in the first round for the first time in five years because they let another opponent hang around.

Four times in the last five years, Colorado had to play a Game 7 after blowing a 3-1 lead. The Avalanche won three of those series, with the only other loss coming against Edmonton in 1998 — the last time Colorado didn’t make it past the first round.

“We didn’t put them away in Game 5 and this is what happens,” Colorado’s Joe Sakic said.

The odds weren’t on Minnesota’s side. Of the 193 previous teams that trailed a series 3-1, only 16 came back to win. Just seven did it with two road wins.

It didn’t matter to the Wild.

They stuck to their defensive style and rode Fernandez’s hot glove to win three games in Denver after going 0-6-2 here in three years.

“We had a chance to put a team away and we weren’t able to do it,” Avalanche coach Tony Granato said. “When



*Andrew Brunette flipped a backhander over Patrick Roy for the winner.*

you give an opportunity and then you play a seventh game, anything can happen. And it proved tonight.”

Brunette scored the winner after Zholtok lost the puck between two defenders just inside Colorado’s blue line. Brunette skated in on the left side, held the puck, then switched to his backhand before flipping a shot over Patrick Roy.



## 2002/03 National Hockey League standings

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic

(2) New Jersey	108 pts
(4) Philadelphia	107 pts
Pittsburgh	65 pts
N.Y. Rangers	78 pts
(8) N.Y. Islanders	83 pts

#### Northeast

(1) Ottawa	113 pts
(7) Boston	87 pts
(5) Toronto	98 pts
Montreal	77 pts
Buffalo	72 pts

#### Southeast

(3) Tampa Bay	93 pts
Carolina	61 pts
(6) Washington	92 pts
Florida	70 pts
Atlanta	74 pts

### Western Conference

#### Central

(2) Detroit	110 pts
(5) St. Louis	99 pts
Chicago	79 pts
Columbus	69 pts
Nashville	74 pts

#### Northwest

(4) Vancouver	104 pts
(6) Minnesota	95 pts
(8) Edmonton	92 pts
(3) Colorado	105 pts
Calgary	75 pts

#### Pacific

(1) Dallas	111 pts
(7) Anaheim	95 pts
Los Angeles	78 pts
San Jose	73 pts
Phoenix	78 pts



## Brylin out since Feb. 5 with broken wrist

WEST ORANGE, N.J. — Sergei Brylin will be back in the New Jersey Devils' lineup Thursday night against the Tampa Bay Lightning in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

It is the forward's first game since Feb. 5, when he broke his wrist in a game against the Washington Capitals. Brylin had surgery, then couldn't do anything for nearly two months because doctors were afraid of infection.

He missed the last 30 games of the regular season and the first-round playoff victory over Boston.

"I just wanted to play this year," said Brylin, a member of the Devils' Stanley Cup champions in 1995 and 2000. "I put a lot of hard work and effort into my rehab and tried to push myself as hard as I could."

He's one of those little cogs that make the Devils tough to beat. He plays on a checking line, kills penalties and can score a big goal when needed.

He had a goal and an assist in New Jersey's championship-clinching game against Detroit in 1995.

"Sergei has been a key part of our team over the years - the unsung hero," defenseman Ken Daneyko said. "We've managed to get this far with him being injured, so to bring in a guy who can play at both ends of the rink is a spark for us. He's a playoff-type player who can only help if he's healthy."

Brylin said he felt fine after practice Tuesday.

"After missing 11 weeks, the only way to find out is to go out and try it," Brylin said.

It was not immediately clear whose place he would take Thursday. Turner Stevenson played well in Brylin's spot on a line with John Madden and Jay Pandolfo.

"He's fast. He's smart. He checks well and contributes on offense," said Madden, whose line will probably be assigned to shut down the Lightning top line of Vincent Lecavalier, Vaclav Prospal and Martin St. Louis. "That's what makes my job easier. Sergei does it as well as I do. It's great having two guys on the same line like that."

Brylin has also skated with Scott Gomez and Patrik Elias this season, but Brian Gionta and that pair played well together late in the season. The other option would be to put Brylin on the fourth line, taking one of the wing spots now played by Grant Marshall or Jim McKenzie.

Brylin said his wrist is still a little stiff and not as strong as he would like.

"But it feels better and better every day," Brylin said. "A week ago I wasn't able to do this and that."



Sergei Brylin

Game 7 of the Western Conference quarterfinals.

After the game, Roy told Denver reporters he is "90 percent sure" of his decision about whether he'll suit up for the Avalanche next season. However, Roy also wants to take a little time off before making a final decision.

"I just need a little more time to make sure I make the right decision," said Roy, the all-time winningest goalie in NHL history.

Avalanche general manager Pierre Lacroix left little doubt that coach Tony Granato will be back.

He wasn't so sure about Roy and Peter Forsberg.

Granato was criticized for juggling his lines too much in the first-round series against Minnesota, but Lacroix said Wednesday that his coach was in no danger of losing his job. The Wild won the series in seven games after the Avalanche blew a 3-games-to-1 lead.

"There's no doubt (he'll be back), and he has got a long career ahead of him," Lacroix said. "Ask any of the players."

Lacroix wasn't quite so certain about Forsberg.

The Swedish star is a restricted free agent and has said he would like to finish his career in Sweden, where he can play for his father.

Forsberg was noncommittal about his plans for next season after Colorado's 3-2 overtime loss to the Wild Tuesday night, but Lacroix said he's expecting the league's leading scorer to be back for a ninth season.

**"Four seconds, that's great sir, but time over target isn't a factor in this test."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## GM: Coach Granato will be back

DENVER — Future Hall of Fame goaltender Patrick Roy has pretty much made up his mind about whether to return for a 19<sup>th</sup> full season in the NHL. He's just not saying what the decision is — yet.

Roy's season ended late Tuesday night as the Colorado Avalanche lost a 3-2 overtime decision to the Minnesota Wild in

*Laugh Support*